

Def. Doc. No. 2012

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

Articles from the October 30th's issue
of the YOMIURI Newspaper, 1933

Holding of Asiatic Peace Conference Inviting All Countries
Concerned, Important Proposal By War Minister Araki.

(Telephone message from Fukui) War Minister Araki, who is staying here, has been considering and studying a foreign policy with a view to adjusting Japan's international relations in future, establishing peace in the East, and making European countries and America understand Japan's true intentions. At last he has come to a conclusion that the convocation of an Asiatic peace conference should be proposed to the Powers for the purpose of settling all the disputes and differences. It seems that he has decided to deliberate carefully with the Navy authorities on this matter upon his return to Tokyo and to advise the Premier, the Foreign Minister and the other Ministers concerned to that effect as an unanimous desire of the fighting services, thus inducing the Government to take steps in order to carry out the scheme. The Minister of War believes that, in view of the coming international crisis of 1935-6, the whole nation should be united in order to revise and readjust all the important policies, and he also thinks it necessary for Japan to take active measures towards foreign countries at the same time. From this viewpoint he

proposes as a fundamental measure for securing peace in the East to hold an Asiatic peace conference by inviting countries, such as Manchukuo, China, Siam, India and Afghanistan as well as European and American countries including Soviet Russia, England, America, France, Italy and the Netherlands, where discussions will be held of Japan's chief objectives, which are:

A. Preliminary negotiations with England and America centering around the holding of a conference for to the revision of the decisions reached at the London and the Washington Naval Disarmament Conferences.

B. Negotiations with Soviet Russia concerning the maintenance of peace between Japan and Russia with Manchukuo in the center on the basis of mutual non-aggression.

Furthermore, complicated problems of the East such as the Anti-War Pact, the Nine Power Treaty, and Japan's relations with China and India will be discussed in order to maintain permanent peace in Far East through a fundamental readjustment of the interests of the Powers concerned. The success of the conference is much expected by the War Minister and the Army circles in general, as it would eventually result in settling Japan's national defence problem.

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"War Minister ARAKI's Talk"

Far East, permeated by American and European influences, ~~seems as though it is a world center of disputes.~~ Moreover, Japan's recognition of Manchukuo has resulted in aggravating such disputes. It is needless to say, however, that Japan should bravely follow her fixed principles declared at the time of her withdrawal from the League of Nations, however persecuted she may be, for Japan must live with Manchukuo as her, life-line on the continent. Being the only great Power in Far East at present, Any action or movement of Japan is closely watched by the world. It is extremely dangerous for Japan to try to cope with the present crisis relying on a mere treaty or diplomatic artifice alone, if she is set to positively maintain peace in the East and thus to contribute to the establishment of world peace. Therefore I propose the holding of an Asiatic peace conference where discussions on a Russo-Japanese non-aggression pact, pourparlers for a disarmament conference and basic deliberations of all the issues related to the maintenance of peace may be conducted with a view to reaching an agreement. Thus the significance of Japan's withdrawal from the League of Nation would also be clarified and I believe any Power that may entertain complaints against Japan may come to understand her true intentions and, as a consequence, may naturally recognize Manchukuo.

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Foreign Office Authorities Express Surprise and Oppose Scheme which They Think Amounts to Voluntary Reminciation of "Far Asiatic Monroe Doctrine."

Regarding an Asiatic peace conference which is reportedly proposed by Minister of War ARAKI at FUKUI City, leaders of the Foreign Office authorities stated as follows;

"Recently a section of the Army advocated the holding of an oriental peace conference. The matter was taken up, at that time, at a liaison conference between the Foreign Office and the Army but was then rejected as utterly useless.

If Minister of War, ARAKI really means to bring up again the already-settled problem, we should wonder what his true intentions are. His proposal reveals his lack of correct understanding of the complicated situation prevailing in the Far East with China and Soviet Russia surrounding Manchukuo and of the movements against Manchukuo which have been growing in the United States and the countries of the League of Nations since the day of its independence. His proposal is against the fundamental spirit with which Japan withdrew from the League. It would grant England, America and others the rights to interfere wantonly with the Far Eastern situation. It would also amount to the renunciation of the principle of Far Eastern Monroism or Great Asiaism. Therefore we can never approve of his proposal."

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The main reasons for this opposition are roughly as follows:

As China, America and members of the League such as France, Italy and Germany, lack due cognizance of the Far Eastern affairs and formed themselves sentimentally into a non-recognition alliance against Manchukuo. It is practically impossible, therefore, to assemble in a conference the representatives of Manchukuo and those countries, within less than a year since such an alliance was concluded. Especially China, Britain and America would not accept the proposal.

B. As to the problem of Manchukuo itself, now is the time when internal stability is more important than recognition from outside. Moreover, the question of the recognition of Manchukuo being a question of face for China, Britain and America, the best way would be to leave it along for the time being.

C. That the Army is now intending to promote peace among Japan, Manchukuo and the Soviet Russia by concluding a non-aggression pact between Japan and Russia shows a progress in the Army's Russian Policy. But in view of the fact that even the negotiations for the pending transfer of the North Manchuria Railway have come to a deadlock due to the lack of sincerity on the part of Russia, such a conference will be of no avail.

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D. The Foreign Office is not opposed to the opening of preliminary talks for a disarmament conference in 1935, a continuation of the London Naval Armament Reduction Conference. But at a recent session of the five ministers' conference no concrete national policy has been decided upon in preparation for the above-mentioned conference. It is ridiculous to advocate an international conference without establishing a firm policy within the country. Therefore the determination of national policy and the unification of national opinions are necessary first of all.

E. The proposal reveals an entire lack of cognizance of the situation in that it advocates the holding of a conference with the purpose of discussing Asiatic problems such as the Nine Power Treaties and China and Manchukuo problems. The Sino-Japanese relations have been turning for the better gradually, since the North China Truce Agreement was reached. At this juncture, it is obvious that the opening of such a conference would again lead China to oppose Japan, with the help of Britain and America, through her traditional foreign policy of matching one enemy against another". It would be like duplicating the Washington Naval Armament Reduction Conference of the past.

F. Lacking in the correct understanding of the Far Eastern situations, Britain, America and other countries

wanted to maintain the hegemony of the white races in the Far East permanently. Japan's withdrawal from the League of Nations, therefore, is an expression of "Asiatic Monroe Doctrine" which aims at liberating Asia from the fetters of those British and American countries and "defending Asia by the Asiatic races". If Japan is to take the initiative in holding an international conference against this general tendency, thus giving Britain, America and other countries the right to discuss Asiatic problems, it would be nothing but a repetition of the so-called flattering or weak-kneed diplomacy of the past.

It is quite surprising to know that such an inconsistent argument is voiced by the military circles, which have hitherto been advocating a strong foreign policy.

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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, who occupy the post of the Chief of the filing department for the demobilized and repatriates from abroad in the YOMIURI Press, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese consisting of 6 pages and entitled "War Minister Araki Advocates Holding of Asiatic Peace Conference Inviting All Countries Concerned; Foreign Office Opposes." is a copy of an article on our newspaper issued on October 30, 1933.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 17th day of March, 1947.

/s/ TODOROKI? Sakae (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place,
on the same date.

Witness: /s/ SUGAWARA, Kunitaka (seal)

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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I hereby certifies that an article entitled "Asiatic Peace Conference Inviting All Countries Concerned, Important Proposal By War Minister Araki" and appreared in the YOMIURI Newspaper issued on October 30, 1933 was written by me who was then a reporter of the newspaper after having personally heard War Minister Araki's talk together with other reporters of the TOKYO ASAHI, the TOKYO NICHINICHI and several other newspaper companies.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 15th day of April, 1947.

/s/KANDA, Koichi.

關係各國を招請し東洋平和會議を開催

荒木陸相の重大提唱

(昭和八年十月卅日讀賣新聞記事)

を開催し先づ日本としての主要目標たる

一、英米に對してはロンドン海軍軍縮會議及びワシントン海軍軍縮會議の

改訂會議の豫備商議を中心とする協議を進める

一、ソヴェートロシヤに對しては日露不可侵を中心として滿洲國をさし挟む

日露間の平和維持につき協議を進める

の他不戰條約、九ヶ國條約、對支、對印關係等東洋において錯綜せる問題を
を上程協議し列國の利害を根本的に調整することによつて極東永遠の平和
維持を期せんとするものであるがこれが成果如何は日本の國防問題をも自
然落つくところに落つかせるものとして陸軍軍部及び陸相共々期待してゐ
る

荒木陸相語る

歐米勢力の浸潤せる東洋は世界的紛争の中心たる觀を呈してゐる、日本の
滿洲國承認はその紛争に油を注いだ結果となつてゐる、併し滿洲を大陸に
於ける生命線とすることによつて生存して行かねばならぬ、日本としては
如何なる迫害があらうとも國際聯盟脱退の際聲明した既定方針に基いて進

昭和八年十月卅日 讀賣新聞記事

關係各國を招請し東洋平和會議を開催

荒木陸相の重大提唱

(福井電話) 當地滯在中の荒木陸相は今後の國際關係を調整し東洋平和を確立し進んでは日本の眞意を歐米列國に理解せしむべき對外政策につき思索研究を進めた結果東洋平和會議の開催を列國に提唱し凡ゆる紛争の解決を圖るといふ見解に到達したので歸京後海軍側とも慎重に協議した上軍部一致の要望として首相、外相及び關係各僚に進言し政府をしてその具體化を圖らしめんとする意向を固めたようである。即ち陸相は一九三五年及

び六年の國際的難關を控へて國內の結果を固め眞に舉國一致の下に重要諸案を改革整備すべきは固よりであるが、これと共に對外的にも積極的手段を講ずるの必要ありとの見地から東洋平和の根本方策として滿洲國、支那、シヤム、インド、アフガニスタン等の諸國は固より東洋に密接の關係あるソヴェートロシヤ、英、米、佛、伊、獨、蘭等の歐米國ヲ招請して東洋平和會議

を開催し先づ日本としての主要目標たる

一、英米に對してはロンドン海軍軍縮會議及びワシントン海軍軍縮會議の

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如何なる迫害があらうとも國際聯盟脱退の際聲明した既定方針に基いて處

進めねばならぬことは勿論である、而して極東唯一の大國として日本現下の舉手一投足は世界注視の的となつてゐるが日本としては東洋平和を維持し進んで世界平和確立に貢獻するためには一片の條約や單なる外交技術をもつてのみ難關に備へんとするが如きは危險極まることである、従つて我輩は東洋平和會議を開催してその會議に於て日ソ不可侵條約、軍縮會議の豫備商議を始め平和維持に關係あるあらゆる問題を根本的に協議しそれによつて承認することがよいと思つてゐる、茲にはじめて國際聯盟脫退の意義も明かとなり列國に若し不平があらは日本の眞意を諒解し自然滿洲國をも承認することにもならうと信じてゐる。

「極東モンロー主義」を

自ら放棄するもの

今更ら意外に外務當局反對

荒木陸相が福井市に於て提唱したと稱せられる東洋平和會議開催問題に關し外務省幹部では

東洋平和會議開催説は先般來陸軍の一部に提唱するものあり當時外務軍部連絡會議の話題ともなつたがその時既に一顧の價值なしとして擯られたもので今更ら荒木陸相がこの検討ずみの問題を蒸返すなど眞實とすればその眞意奈邊にあるか諒解に苦むところである、右は滿洲國を繞る支那並ソヴェートロシヤの複雑なる極東の情勢及び滿洲國獨立を繞つて捲き起つた聯盟各國並に米國の反對運動等に對する正當なる認識を缺き且聯盟脫退の根本精神にも反し徒らに極東の事態に對する英、米其他の諸國の容喙權をも容認し自ら極東モンロー主義或は大亞細亞主義の主張を拋棄せんとするもので斷じて承認出来ないといつてゐるがその反對理由とする所は大要左の如きものである。

一、支那、米國並に英、佛、伊、獨等の聯盟諸國が極東の事態に關する正當な認識を缺き感情的に滿洲國の不承認同盟を結成して未だ一年にもならずしてこれ等の諸國代表と滿洲國代表とが一堂に會して協議させるが如きは實際問題として實現困難で第一支那及び英米諸國が承知するものではない

一、滿洲國の問題に關しては現在外に向つて承認を求めより内を固むる時期である、支那及び英米各國にも面子の問題があるから滿洲國承認問題は當分放任して置くことが一番だ

一、ソヴェエトロシヤとの間に不侵略條約を中心として日滿蘇三國間に平和工作を進めんとすることは陸軍の對露政策の一進展であるが、目下懸案となつてゐる北滿鐵道譲渡交渉さへソヴェエト側の無誠意から全然行詰りとなつてゐる今日斯る會議を開催しても無駄である

一、ロンドン會議の延長たる一九三五年の軍縮會議の豫備商談を開くことに對しては外務當局も反對ではない、しかし過般の五相會議でも右會議に對處すべき具體的國策に就いて何等決定を見なかつたではないか、内

に確呼する政策なくして國際會議を主唱する等は滑稽で先づ國策の決定と國際の一致が必要である

一、九ヶ國條約、對支問題、滿洲問題等の東洋問題を議題とする會議開催の主張に至つては餘りに認識不足である、北支停戰協定成立以來日支の關係は漸次好轉しつゝあるがその矢先斯る國際會議を開催すれば支那は再び「以夷制夷」の外交政策から英米を頼つて日本に反感して來ること、火を啗るよりも明らからで往年のワシントン會議を再現せんとするやうなものである

一、日本が國際聯盟を脱退したのは極東の事態に正當なる認識を缺き極東に於ける白人種の覇權を永遠に持続せんとする英米諸國の霸權よりアジア民族を解放し「アジア民族に依りアジアを守れ」とのアジヤ、モンロー主義思想の一つの現れである、この大勢に逆行し日本自らが主唱して國際會議を開催し英米諸國にアジアの問題を協議すべき權利を賦與せんとするが如きは往年の所謂追従外交、軟弱外交の再現で常に對外硬を唱ふる軍部側から斯る提唱を聽くことは首尾一貫せぬ議論で甚だ意外である

文書成立ニ關スル證明書

(七號A)

私ハ讀賣新聞社ノ復員引揚同職ノ職ニ在ルモノナル處茲ニ添付セル日本語
ニテ事カレ六頁ヨリ成ル「關係各國ヲ招請シ東洋平和會議ヲ開催、荒木
陸相談、外務當局反對」ト題スル文書ハ昭和八年十月卅日發行ノ讀賣新聞
紙掲載記事ノ寫ナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和廿二年三月十七日

於 東京都千代田區有樂町一丁目拾參番地

讀賣新聞社 等々力 榮

右署名捺印ハ私ノ面前ニ於テナサレタルモノナルコトヲ證明ス
同 口 於 同 所

立會人 菅原 國隆

文藝成立ニ關スル證明書

昭和八年十月廿日發賣新聞記事「關係各國ヲ招請シ東洋平和會議ヲ開催
荒木陸相ノ重大提唱」ナル標題ノ原稿ハ當時同新聞記者タル小生ガ東京
朝日新聞、東京日日新聞其ノ他數新聞社ノ記者ト共ニ荒木陸相ヨリ直接
聴取セルモノヲ執筆セルモノ也

昭和廿二年四月十五日

東京都南多摩郡横山村下長房
一九八三番地

神田孝一